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NEWS RELEASE

NEIGHBORHOOD ISSUES FROM PAYDAY LENDERS TO WELFARE REFORM TO BE EXAMINED IN 'THE WEALTH WITHIN' FOR CITYLINKS 2001

DAYTON, Ohio — Since 1984, the annual CityLinks conference has been tackling issues important to neighborhood development, focusing successfully on issues such as neighborhood development corporations, the Community Reinvestment Act and individual development accounts to encourage people to save money to purchase a house.

This year, payday lenders and their alternatives will be on the agenda, as will the digital divide, school choice and welfare reform.

CityLinks 2001, "The Wealth Within," will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday, May 22, at the Kennedy Union Ballroom at the University of Dayton. The workshop is sponsored by the Institute for Neighborhood and Community Leadership at UD, the DP&L Foundation and the city of Dayton.

Cost of the workshop ranges from \$10 to \$20. Call (937) 229-4641 to register or visit the CityLinks registration Web site at <http://www.udayton.edu/~includ/registration.htm>.

"We constantly like to continue to inspire neighborhood leadership about critical issues that are ever present in our community, such as predatory lending and school choice," said Dean Lovelace, community leadership consultant at INCLUD, Dayton city commissioner and chief organizer of CityLinks. "We want participants to walk away equipped with information to become change agents, to be able to impact the neighborhood."

The keynote speaker will be Paul S. Grogan, vice president for government, community

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and public affairs at Harvard University and co-author with Tony Proscio of *Comeback Cities: A Blueprint for Urban Neighborhood Revival* (Westview Press, 2000). The book tracks the decline and recovery of the South Bronx and looks at similar programs in cities such as Boston, Chicago, Milwaukee, Cleveland and Indianapolis.

Valerie Lemmie, Dayton city manager, will give a brief address about Dayton as a comeback city.

Also at the workshop, the third annual Mattie Davis Community Builders Award will be presented to Hazetta Sargent, chair of the inner-city progressive committee in Southern Dayton View and organizer of "sit-outs" by neighborhood residents to combat open-air drug dealing. Mattie Davis, an early proponent of neighborhood development in Dayton, had a major role in organizing the Edgemont neighborhood coalition in 1978 and the Edgemont solar garden.

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For media interviews and more information on CityLinks 2001, contact **Dean Lovelace** at (937) 229-4643 or via e-mail at dean.lovelace@notes.udayton.edu.